

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim1 (original): A cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool which is employed in a substrate for a surface coated gear cutting tool obtained by forming a hard coated layer on a surface of said substrate,

said cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool comprising a WC- $\beta$ t-Co based cemented carbide,

wherein a content of Co forming a binder phase of said cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool is in a range of 12 to 17 wt%, and

among components of a  $\beta$ t solid solution forming a hard phase of said cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool, a content of components excluding WC is in a range of 15 to 20 wt%, and a total content of Ta carbonitride and Nb caronitride is in a range of 5 to 8 wt%.

Claim 2 (original): A cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein a Nb content  $D_{Nb}$  and a Ta content  $D_{Ta}$  in said  $\beta$ t solid solution satisfy a relational expression of  $D_{Nb}/(D_{Nb}+D_{Ta}) \geq 0.7$ .

Claim 3 (original): A cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein a fracture toughness at room temperature is in a range of 9.5 to 13 MPa(m)<sup>1/2</sup>.

Claim 4 (original): A surface coated gear cutting tool comprising a cemented carbide material for surface coated gear cutting tools according to claim 1.

Claim 5 (new): A cemented carbide material, comprising:

a WC- $\beta$ t-Co based cemented carbide,

wherein a content of Co forming a binder phase of said cemented carbide material is in a range of 12 to 17 wt%, and

among components of a  $\beta$ t solid solution forming a hard phase of said cemented carbide material, a content of components excluding WC is in a range of 15 to 20 wt%, and a total content of Ta carbonitride and Nb caronitride is in a range of 5 to 8 wt%.

Claim 6 (new): A cemented carbide material according to claim 5, wherein a Nb content  $D_{Nb}$  and a Ta content  $D_{Ta}$  in said  $\beta$ t solid solution satisfy a relational expression of  $D_{Nb}/(D_{Nb}+D_{Ta}) \geq 0.7$ .

Claim 7 (new): A cemented carbide material according to claim 5, wherein a fracture toughness at room temperature is in a range of  $9.5$  to  $13 \text{ MPa(m)}^{1/2}$ .

Claim 8 (new): A surface coated gear cutting tool comprising:

a substrate; and

a cemented carbide material according to claim 5 forming a layer over the substrate.